4. U.P.: U.P. State Govt. has started the decentralised procurement scheme. There are 7 different State procuring agencies for opening their purchase centres for purchase of what. FCI has also opened 41 purchase centres in the Eastern U.P.

5. RAJASTHAN: In Rajasthan, the State agencies VIZ. RSWC and Rajfed are working as sub-agents of FCI and deliver the procured wheat on day-to-day basis at FCI godowns.

Administering the Sugar Control

3677. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people below poverty line in the country who actually get sugar from PDS;

(b) the amount of subsidy on sugar for the PDS earmarked for this year;

(c) the reasons for not dismantling the whole edifice on sugar control and divert these funds to further subsidise the rice/wheat given to the below poverty line families through PDS; and

(d) the outflow of funds for administering the sugar control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) At present, sugar is distributed under the Public Distribution System (PDS) to Below Poverty Line as well as Above Poverty Line families. The allotment of sugar to the States for distribution is based on the population figures projected as on 1st March, 1999 by the Registrar General which is 9813.25 lakhs. The Government has decided to exclude the income tax assesses and their family members for PDS sugar with effect from 1st July, 2000. A budget provision of Rs. 110 crores for sugar subsidy has been made in the budget for the current financial year 2000-2001. Sugar is an essential commodity. As such, its production, distribution and consumption is being controlled in public interest.

(d) Directorate of Sugar, an attached office of the Department of Sugar & Edible Oils, has been entrusted the task of adminitering of sugar control. However, the Directorate, apart from administering the sugar control, also undertakes other functions like monitoring of prices, imports, cane price arrears, collection of statistics relating to sugar industry, technical/supervisory functions

etc. As such, it is not possible to quantify the outflow of funds exclusively for administering the sugar control.

Increase in Price of Wheat and Rice

†3678. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have raised the prices of wheat and rice to be sold through PDS; if so, the extent of increase thereof and the level of ration distribution in this regard; and

(b) how Government would dertermine categorization of the people living below the poverty line and the people living above the poverty line so that the people get ration at reasonable price.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Allocation of foodgrains under TPDS has been doubled from 10 kg. to 20 kg. per family per month at 50% of economic cost for BPL families and allocation for APL families has been maintained at economic cost w.e.f. 1.4.2000.

The details of increase in price of wheat and rice are as under:—

(Rs. per quintal)

Commodity	BPL		APL	
	Pre-revised	Revised w.e.f. 1.4.2000	Pre-revised	Revised w.e.f. 1.4.2000
Wheat	250	450	682	900
Rice				
(i) Common	350	590	—	—
(ii) Grade 'A'	350	590	905	1180
(iii) Common rice for families above poverty line (APL) applicable to J&K, H.P., N.E. States. Sikkim and hilly areas of U.P.	—	—	700	1135

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.